

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/077 W

----- 016039

R 090905 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6636

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0829

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BM, TH

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL GUB ATTENDANCE AT THAI ARMED FORCES DAY
RECEPTION

1. GUB ATTENDANCE AT THAI ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION GIVEN APRIL 7 BY THAI MILITARY ATTACHE COLONEL SNIT SATYASNGUAN WAS UNPRECEDENTLY HIGH LEVEL AND WAS HEADED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL SAN YU. THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS-- VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (ARMY) BRIGADIER TIN U, VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (AIR) BRIGADIER THAUNG DAN AND VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (NAVY) COMMODORE THAUNG TIN-- WERE ALSO PRESENT, TOGETHER WITH NUMEROUS OTHER HIGH RANKING GUB MILITARY OFFICERS. IN CONTRAST, BRIG. TIN U IS CUSTOMARILY ONLY ONE OF ABOVE FOUR OFFICERS TO ATTEND OTHER NATIONS ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTIONS.

2. PRESS GAVE FRONTPAGE NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE TO THE EVENT, A TREATMENT USUALLY GIVEN ONLY TO NATIONAL DAYS AS DISTINCT FROM ARMED FORCES DAYS. UPI BUREAU CHIEF TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT PROMINENT PRESS ATTENTION WAS RESULT OF DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM GUB.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PRIMARY REASON FOR SUCH HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT PRESENT JUNCTURE IS GUB DESIRE TO FURTHER GUB-- RTG RAPPROCHEMENT, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF REPORTS
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THAT PRIME MINISTER NE WIN PLANNING VISIT TO THAILAND SHORTLY
(SEPTTEL). GUB MAY ALSO HAVE DESIRED TO RECIPROCATATE REPORTED
HIGH LEVEL THAI MILITARY RESPRESENTATION AT BURMESE ARMED FORCES
DAY RECEPTION MARCH 27 IN BANGKOK, THUS SHOWING BURMA NOT
LAGGING BEHIND THAILAND IN DISPLAYING GOODWILL.
MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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